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Signature Smylla M. Wennston Date

E February 6, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

LINDSEY et al.

Group Art Unit: 2731

New Application

Examiner: Ngo, R.

Divisional of 08/861,438 filed 5/21/1997

(Allowed 11/7/2000)

Filed: February 6, 2001

Docket No. 100.229

Customer No. 023907

For:

METROPOLITAN AREA NETWORK SWITCHING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF

OPERATION THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

#4/A who